

forum (APEC) will help maintain America's leadership role in Asia. For our close friends in the region, APEC's most important purpose is to keep the U.S. anchored in Asia.

Better access to world markets is critical to the success of economic and political reform in Eastern Europe, and to the independence of the countries of the former Soviet Union.

U.S.-led efforts to reduce trade barriers have contributed to a dramatic increase in global prosperity since World War II, reducing the potential for international conflict.

Trade is an increasingly important dimension of international relations. Continued U.S. trade leadership will reinforce U.S. foreign policy leadership. A rejection of fast-track will signal a retreat from our role as world leader.

Despite the power of these arguments, fast-track won't be approved unless we address deep-seated concerns about the impact of trade on the U.S. economy.

First, we need to strengthen programs that help workers adjust to foreign competition. Trade expansion benefits the U.S. economy as a whole, but it does hurt some workers, especially those with fewer skills. Better education and training will do more to help U.S. workers than anything a trade agreement can do about foreign labor practices.

Second, the President must persuade Americans that if they give him fast-track, he will use that authority aggressively—to knock down foreign trade restrictions and deliver agreements that increase good-paying jobs.

Third, the President and Congress need to launch a national dialogue on the importance of trade. We need to highlight the advantages of trade: the jobs created by exports, and the benefits of imports both to consumers and producers. We need to explain that low productivity in developing countries often neutralizes any competitive advantage provided by their low wages. We need to document the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturing and how American workers are being hurt by recent trade agreements concluded without U.S. participation—because of the absence of fast-track authority.

Fast-track will empower the President to open foreign markets—to the benefit of the U.S. economy and U.S. foreign policy. Without fast-track our economy's potential will be unfulfilled, and our international leadership will be diminished.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP VICTOR T. CURRY, PASTOR OF NEW BIRTH BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 1997

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is truly a distinct honor and privilege to pay tribute to one of Miami's great leaders, Bishop Victor T. Curry. I want to echo the same sentiments of joy and gratitude that the 10,000 members of the New Birth Baptist Church in Miami lifted up to Almighty God this past weekend to celebrate his sixth pastoral anniversary.

Bishop Curry, 37 years old, truly represents the best and the noblest of our community. As bishop, senior pastor, and teacher of New Birth Baptist Church, he is remarkably leading his congregation in the ways of God and has tirelessly worked to enlighten our community

on the agenda of spiritual wisdom and good government based on our God-given conscience and responsibility.

It is indeed fitting for those of us who subscribe to the Judaeo-Christian faith to pause and reflect on the important role that Bishop Curry plays in the day-to-day affairs of our community. I want to acknowledge the tremendous work he is doing in constantly guiding not only the members of New Birth Baptist Church, but the entire community. He has truly exemplified the example of Christ as the Good Shepherd, and has led his flock of believers, sharing with them the words of God's wisdom and the good news emanating from the Gospel.

His motto, "From Vision to Victory," has impacted the lives of countless people, propelling him into one of our Nation's charismatic televangelists par excellence. Along with countless others in our community, I am indeed a fortunate beneficiary of Bishop Curry's televised teachings and radio ministry through the church-owned Radio WMBM-1490 AM, especially in his advocacy to demonstrate both by way of word and example our unconditional love for and commitment to the children and the elderly, the poor, the disenfranchised, and the least fortunate among us. I have learned from him the very centrality of God in our daily lives, conscious of the fact that the mandate of our faith must characterize our attitudes toward those who could least fend for themselves.

In its laudatory recognition the Miami Times aptly described him as "a forceful, courageous, and visionary leader not only of the religious community but also of our wider society * * * with the recognition that our churches are part of a larger network of institutions that are the pillars of our community." Bishop Curry is fully living up to his vocation as a genuine pastor. His standards for learning, caring, and achieving, especially among the youth has won for him the accolades of our ecumenical community. Public and private agencies have oftentimes cited him for his untiring consecration to the truth and his uncompromising stance on justice and equal opportunity for all.

Moreover, his crusades in teaching many a wayward inner-city youth has become legendary. He has gained the utmost confidence of countless parents and teachers who see in him a no-nonsense motivator. They are wont to entrust him with the future of their children, fully cognizant and genuinely confident that they would learn from him the tenets of scholarship and the pursuit of scholastic excellence under a conscientious commitment and rigorous discipline.

Our community is deeply touched and comforted by his undaunted leadership, compassion, and personal warmth. As head of one of the fastest growing churches in Florida, Bishop Curry preaches and lives by the adage that under the grace of God's Providence our common quest for personal integrity and professional achievement is not beyond the reach of those who are willing to dare the impossible. As a man of God and as an indomitable leader in our community, he has rightfully earned our deepest respect and genuine admiration.

This is the great legacy Bishop Victor T. Curry is unselfishly sharing with all of us. I am greatly privileged indeed to have his friendship and his confidence, and I am grateful that he continues to teach me to live by his noble

ethic of always loving God and serving my fellowmen.

TRIBUTE TO RON MORRIS

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 1997

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Ron Morris who participated in CIVITAS@Bosnia and Herzegovina, an intensive program from August 1-17, 1997, designed to train teachers from throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina with materials and methods developed to educate for democracy. Mr. Morris was part of a team of 20 American educators who were assigned to 16 locations throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the Republika Srpska. The Americans teamed with 18 teachers from the Council of Europe in nine of these sites. This education for democracy program reached 550 teachers from both entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The summer teaching training program was developed by the Center for Civic Education as part of a major civic education initiative in Bosnia and Herzegovina supported by the U.S. Information Agency and the U.S. Department of Education built on a program begun in 1996. The goals of the program are to provide teachers with the tools necessary to help prepare students and their communities for competent and responsible citizenship, including participation in elections and other opportunities to take part in the political life of their communities. Achieving this goal will contribute to the reconstruction of a sense of community, cooperation, tolerance, and support for democracy and human rights in this war-torn area.

I am also pleased to announce that the curricular materials being used for the program in Bosnia and Herzegovina have been adapted from the We the People * * * the Citizen and the Constitution, Foundations of Democracy, and the Project Citizen Programs, which are supported by Congress and used in schools throughout the United States. Initial reports evaluating the summer program indicate the materials—selected and adapted by educators in Bosnia and Herzegovina—and teaching methods were enthusiastically received and will be adapted for use in classrooms in both entities of the country.

Ron Morris is a teacher at Arcadia High School in Arcadia, CA. He also serves as the district coordinator for the We the People * * * the Citizen and the Constitution Program in my home district. A student team of constitutional experts from Arcadia High School under the leadership of Ron Morris came to Washington, DC, this year to participate in the We the People * * * academic competition on the Constitution and Bill of Rights. They placed second in the entire Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend Ron Morris for his dedication and commitment during CIVITAS@Bosnia and Herzegovina summer training program. His work is helping to achieve the overall objective of building democracy in Bosnia and Herzegovina.